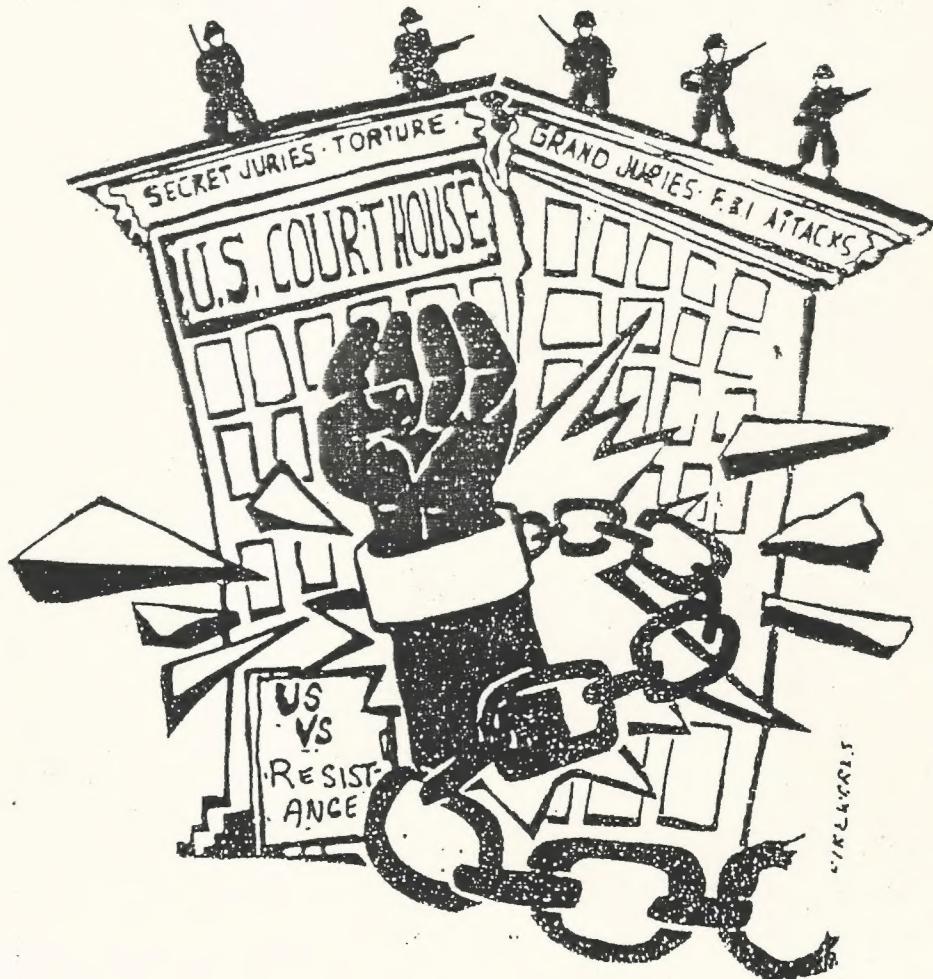


Material zum
Prozeß gegen
sechs revolutionäre
Gefangene
in den
USA



März 1989

im frühjahr beginnt in washington, d.c. ein prozeß gegen sechs revolutionäre gefangene - alan berkman, tim blunk, marilyn buck, linda evans, susan rosenberg und laura whitehorn. diese sechs gefangene und eine frau, die gesucht wird, betty ann duke, sind angeklagt "die innen- und außenpolitik der u.s.a. regierung mit gewaltsamem und illegalen mitteln zu beeinflussen, zu verändern und dagegen zu protestieren." (zitat von der anklageschrift im original - "to influence, change, and protest policies and practices of the united states government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violent and illegal means"). in diesem prozeß wird ihnen verschwörung und beihilfe zu mehreren bombenanschlägen gegen u.a. das südafrikanische konsulat in new york, die israelischen flugzeugwerke, verschiedene militärische einrichtungen der u.s.a. and das kapitolgebäude vorgeworfen.

alle gefangenen sind seit 1985 im knast und, außer laura whitehorn, schon zu hohen haftstrafen von 12-70 jahre wegen waffenbesitz, sprengstoffbesitz und falschen ausweisen verurteilt. in diesem prozeß werden sie wegen den selben taten nochmal angeklagt und zusätzlich kommt die anklage der o.g. anschläge dazu. einer der gefangenen schreibt - "unser prozeß ist sehr wichtig für sie, zum teil als legitimierung für die 5-10 jahre illegaler fbi überwachungen, einbrüche (hunderte von einbrüchen) und dem stehlen von dokumenten von politischen organisationen und adressenlisten von gruppen, die legale solidaritätsarbeit zu mittelamerika machen. die regierung wird sagen, daß die repression notwendig ist, um diejenigen, die bewaffneten aktionen durchführen, zu finden. sie hoffen, daß die solidaritätsbewegungen uns isolieren werden und uns für die repression verantwortlich machen." eine andere schreibt:

wir denken, daß die usa es vermeiden wollen, eine "counter/anti-terrorimus" gesetzgebung einzuführen, die die mitgliedschaft in organisationen kriminalisiert, sowie aktionen, die öffentliche politische unterstützung für besondere forderungen zeigen usw. mit anderen worten, sie wollen es vermeiden, die art von gesetzgebung, die in der brd, israel, südafrika und nordirland verabschiedet wurde, einzuführen. es ist sehr wichtig für die usa, die illusion aufrechtzuerhalten, daß die verfassung (redefreiheit, versammlungsfreiheit, annahme der unschuld des angeklagten bis zum urteil, usw.) noch so lange wie möglich aufrechterhalten wird, weil die bevölkerung hier sich an diese freiheiten klammert als die essenz bourgeois demokratie. alle offenen schritte gegen jene "freiheiten" dürften eine art massenreaktion provozieren - obwohl die aushöhlung des kriminellen justizsystems bisher die öffentlichkeit nicht provoziert hat. guck dir die mehr oder weniger stille akzeptanz des gesetzes an, daß es keine kaution gibt und das gesetz für präventive u-haft, anonyme geschworene, spezielle politische grand juries und die einknastung derjenigen, die die zusammenarbeit mit dem staat (aussagen machen, d.U.) verweigern. nicht zu erwähnen die sich ÜBERALL schnell verschlechternden gefängnisbedingungen und die neuen verurteilungsrichtlinien. wodurch mehr menschen für sehr viel längere zeit in den knast kommen werden - ohne zweidrittel. natürlich gibt es leider eine million beispiele für die faschistische richtung, in die das alles führt."

wir haben die folgenden sachen zu dem prozeß und den gefangenen zusammengestellt:

- ein artikel von einer frauenzeitung aus den u.s.a. (leider nur auf englisch)
- ein artikel von susan rosenberg zu dem hochsicherheitstrakt für Frauen, wo sie 1 1/2 Jahre inhaftiert war (auch nur auf englisch)
- bilder und gedichte von einigen gefangenen
- informationen zu der kampagne gegen die panzerglaswand und die überwachungskameras im gerichtssaal
- solidaritätsadresse von den sechs gefangenen an die hafenstrasse zu den silvester tagen 1988
- solidaritätsadresse von den sechs gefangenen an die kämpfenden gefangenen im hungerstreik in der brd
- aufruf zu solidaritätsaktionen mit den gefangenen im hungerstreik in der brd und südafrika

- liste von politischen gefangenen und kriegsgefangenen in den u.s.a.

wir haben diese zusammenstellung gemacht, weil viele von uns wenig oder garnichts von den politischen gefangenen und dem widerstand in den u.s.a. wissen. dies ist ein anfang - begrenzt auf den prozeß gegen die sechs gefangenen. wir denken, daß dieser prozeß jetzt ein wichtiger abschnitt in den u.s.a. ist. es fehlen z.b. die informationen über die nationalen befreiungsbewegungen und deren kriegsgefangene in den u.s.a. - schwarze/neu afrikanerinnen, puertoricerinnen, indianerinnen. wir betonen dieses, weil die u.s.a. immer als ein land mit mehreren nationen gesehen werden muß.

die politische gefangenen fühlen sich mit unserem kampf verbunden. wir wollen die politischen gefangenen in den u.s.a. stärker in unseren kampf miteinbeziehen - in den diskussionen, in den solidaritätserklärungen, in unserer praxis. wir wollen ihnen kraft geben und die diskussionen mit ihnen führen, um voneinander mehr zu erfahren und zu lernen. eine gefangene schreibt:

"hier konnten sie die revolutionären teile des widerstandes isolieren, was wir über diesen prozeß ein wenig umdrehen wollen. (dieser plan) ist" der brd ganz zurückgeschlagen worden - eine antimperialistische front hat sich gebildet. es wird lange zeit brauchen bevor es sowas hier gibt, aber aus den anstrengungen, auf internationale ebene unterstützung für politische gefangene/kriegsgefangene aufzubauen, entwickelt sich eine gruppe von aktivisten, die der kern für solche entwicklungen sein können."

sowohl in den u.s.a. als hier spielt die internationale solidarität eine sehr wichtige rolle. wir wollen mit den genossinnen drinnen und draußen genug druck entwickeln, damit die u.s. regierung mit ihrer kriminalisierungs- und isolierungsstrategie in diesem prozeß nicht durchkommt.

wir veröffentlichen eine liste von den politischen gefangenen. es wäre toll, wenn viele ihnen schreiben. sie freuen sich auf post und solidarität aus westeuropa!!

Political Prisoners: Guilty Until Proven Innocent

by Susie Day

People are so afraid of us, they don't want to hear. Like they say we believe in violence. That's been said of me every time I was moved from one institution to another. . . . Hollywood believes in violence; this country believes in violence. But we don't.

Laura Whitehorn has spent nearly four years in eleven different jails and prisons since she was arrested in May 1983. Held under "preventive detention," the 43-year-old Whitehorn has been denied bail, although her record shows no previous criminal charges and only three arrests for demonstrating against the Vietnam War and forced sterilization.

Now Whitehorn and six others—Alan Berkman, Timothy Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Elizabeth Duke (who remains free)—stand accused by the federal government of the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Capitol and three military buildings in the District of Columbia. Although no one was killed or injured in these bombings, which protested the invasion of Grenada and other U.S. foreign aggression, the defendants could receive as many as 45 years in prison, if convicted. The Resistance Conspiracy trial, as the defendants call it, will likely begin in March of this year, and promises to be one of the most important political cases in decades.

In November 1988, I traveled to the Detention Facility in Washington, D.C., and talked to the four women awaiting trial. Their words in this article are drawn from those interviews. Here, Susan Rosenberg speaks:

Most people don't think that there are forms of political oppression in this

country, but there are. And I think we're a very good example of it, you know? . . . When you go to jail because of conscious acts, it doesn't mean that being in prison is easier. I mean, the most fundamental deprivation is to lose your liberty. . . . Short of death, it's probably the most profound loss a person can have.

In 1983, at the age of 30, Rosenberg was sentenced, with Tim Blunk, to 58 years in prison for weapons possession and false identification. She spent 20 months in the Lexington High Security Unit, a notorious behavior modification facility for "violence prone" women.

Although the United States refuses to acknowledge them as political prisoners, Rosenberg and her co-defendants are part of some 200 people with left-wing views now in federal prisons for alleged crimes against the government. This figure includes "prisoners of war" such as Puerto Rican Nationalists, who see themselves as part of oppressed nations within the United States. The psychological toll of years in confinement is incalculable to these prisoners—25 percent of whom are women. Says Marilyn Buck:

I haven't worked in three and one-half years. Even if I didn't work a job where I brought home a paycheck before, I did work that was organized, that was directed. . . . I see women sitting in jail, idle, doing nothing. Take Marion [men's prison in Illinois] or Lexington, where there's no work, no productive labor. . . . It can really tear you apart.

Buck was convicted in 1988, with Dr. Mutulu Shakur, a New Afrikan



Marilyn Buck

freedom fighter, for alleged conspiracy in actions attributed to the Black Liberation Army, including the 1979 prison escape of Black activist Assata Shakur [see review of *Assata* in Books section this month]. Before the Resistance Conspiracy trial begins, Buck at 41, already faces 70 years in prison.

Like her co-defendants, all of whom are white, Buck has devoted her life and political work to fighting racism. Perhaps it is the alliance of these six North Americans with people of color, and with radical black and Puerto Rican groups in particular, that has motivated the prosecution in the Resistance Conspiracy case to erect a massive, bullet-proof plexiglass wall—the kind often seen in South African trials—to separate the defendants from the rest of the courtroom. As an extra "precaution," special cameras have been installed to monitor the defense table as well as courtroom spectators.

Ironically, at about the same time and in the same building, Oliver North is scheduled to be tried, without shields or cameras. Unlike Laura Whitehorn, neither North nor his colleagues have spent time in preventive detention. There is also wide speculation that these men will not go to prison, even in the unlikely event that they are convicted. These legal discrepancies are not unusual, according to Linda Evans; convicted right-wing defendants generally receive lighter sentences than those who disagree with government policy:

I ended up getting five years in New York . . . for being a felon in possession of a gun when I was arrested. And then 40 years in Louisiana for making false statements. . . . And, of course, the thing that's interesting about the Louisiana case is that it's the same jurisdiction where the Ku Klux Klan tried to mount an invasion of Dominica, a Black island in the Caribbean. You might have heard about it, in '81? It was Don Black. And he had ten other men with him; he had almost a million dollars in cash; they had a boatful of illegal weapons, machine guns and stuff. And he received a total of ten years and was out in 24 months.

Evans is a vibrant woman in her early forties, whose identity as a lesbian is intrinsic to her politics. "I love women," she says. "And I really believe that we should be completely free to develop our full potential with no barriers at all. . . . And I know that because I identify my own oppression,

both as a woman and a lesbian, it means that I have a real stake in winning."

"Winning" to Evans, and to the other women, means the eventual restructuring of a society that nourishes itself on inequality. Their will to win comes from the fact that they are women. Susan Rosenberg explains:

We very much see our liberation as women tied into the structure of this system and therefore see a fundamental change in the system as necessary. . . . I'm involved in social change and radical action and revolutionary movements because I'm a woman, you know? I didn't feel this system had too much to offer me as a woman in terms of real liberation.

All six Resistance Conspiracy defendants base their political work on anti-imperialist principles, which allow them to see the U.S.-dominated corporate/military structure as responsible for a range of international atrocities, from apartheid to nuclear weaponry. They also call themselves internationalists, grounding much of their thought on the United Nations 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees everyone the right to a chosen nationality. Rosenberg continues:

I see the world not only through North American eyes. And so I know, for example, that the people of South Africa are going to be free in my lifetime. And I know that when the people of South Africa are free, it's going to change the nature of the world.

These are views held by thousands of activists and thinkers across the country. Why, then, does the government consider these six people so threatening? Why has it set up a courtroom security system that will make a fair trial by jury all but impossible? And why is it bothering to subject prisoners with virtual life sentences (all but Berkman and Whitehorn already carry at least 45 years) to another four decades in prison?

"They want to make an example of us," answers Linda Evans, "by burying us in prison. . . . The fact that there are white people—women, lesbians—fighting against racism and fighting to fundamentally change the system is very threatening to them." Mary O'Melveny, attorney for Susan Rosenberg, agrees:

Continued on next page



Linda Evans

Continued from previous page

I think this is a government that hasn't hesitated to strike out at people who it thinks have the potential to encourage people to join in . . . more than just the conventional picker signs. . . . Why subject Susan Rosenberg to another 40 years? Why spend the taxpayers money—it's going to cost millions of dollars to try this case—why? To make a point. To make a point that says to people, "Shut up. And don't even consider stepping out of very narrow bounds of protest. That's what I think this case is all about.

According to O'Melveny, the government does not know who carried out the bombings, and has no evidence that any of the six were directly involved in them. Susan Rosenberg, in fact, states that she and other defendants were in prison at the time some of the bombings occurred. The defendants' direct guilt or innocence, then, appears immaterial to the government, which has constructed an indictment to convict the six on charges of aiding and abetting and of conspiracy "to influence, change, and protest policies and practices of the United States government . . . through the use of violent and illegal means."

These are alarmingly elastic charges, which define guilt for an illegal action as anything from directly participating in the action to simply being a member of a group that is accused of carrying it out. Convictions on charges of conspiracy and of aiding and abetting, moreover, are often easy to obtain; once the prosecution establishes an accused's political sympathies, the charges can be proven on simple circumstantial evidence. Mary O'Melveny observes that the prosecution in this case need merely establish that, at different times in their lives, the defendants knew each other and held similar political objectives.

This criminalizing of association makes it difficult to protect defendants using their First Amendment right of free speech. "In other words," says Laura Whitehorn, "if you belong to such and such an organization, that means that you must have done these illegal acts. . . . It's no longer just a question of what you believe. It's not that different from McCarthyism."

If the government can convict the six, it could convict others on similar charges, simply because of what groups they may have joined in the past. Increasing numbers of people would be frightened to develop, let alone act on, progressive opinions, at seeing activists sentenced to years in prison.

Besides being a form of political control, prisons in the United States are used increasingly to warehouse unwanted segments of the population.

The Bureau of Justice reported in April 1987 that prisoners in this country numbered 546,659. This is the largest prison population of any country in the world, and the figure is likely to double in the next decade to over one million. Five percent of U.S. prisoners are women, and about 80 percent are people of color—Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans—who, outside prison, comprise only 20 percent of the population. The imprisonment rate for Blacks alone is the highest in the world—twice the rate of Black imprisonment in South Africa.

It is now widely conceded that the purpose of prison is not rehabilitation but dehumanization. Prisoners incarcerated for social crimes are randomly brutalized as a matter of course; political prisoners are usually isolated from the general prison population and abused, explicitly because they hold progressive or leftist ideas. Like most prisoners, the majority of political prisoners and those who identify as prisoners of war are people of color.

As a rule, male prisoners are treated with more overt physical violence than female prisoners. Tim Blunk spent two years and Alan Berkman several months in the Marion high security prison for men. There says Laura Whitehorn:

... the guards walk up and down the units, hitting their nightsticks against their hands, and if you refuse to obey a direct order . . . you get the shit beaten out of you. . . . They don't do that to women as much. But what they do use against us is the threat of the sexual attack. . . . By their rules, they are permitted to do just about anything to us. And so the number of rapes, which have not been "normal" rapes but rapes with a speculum or a hand, searching for contraband, is a particularity towards women.

Susan Rosenberg and Alejandrina Torres, a Puerto Rican prisoner of war, were each raped in a Tucson prison by a male administrator, in the presence of female guards. Eve Rosahn, a paralegal at the Prisoners' Legal Services of New York, states:

The issues of privacy, of control, of having your will as a grown up human being taken away from you is really typical, partly of how all women prisoners are treated, and then when it's very focused in that way, how women political prisoners are treated.

Lesbians can experience an additional level of sexual degradation. Whitehorn recalls, "I was in Pleasanton, where the male pat-searches are a regular thing . . . and knowing they were going to look at me and say, 'This is a lesbian,' and be pat-searching me really gave me the roaring creeps."



Susan Rosenberg



Laura Whitehorn

Designated "special handling" by the Bureau of Prisons, both male and female political prisoners have been kept for years at a time in "lock down," a modified form of solitary confinement, by which they are isolated in tiny, often windowless cells for 23½ hours each day. Prisoners are allowed out of their cells, in handcuffs and leg shackles, for one half-hour, to shower and make phone calls. All six Resistance Conspiracy defendants were locked down for months in the D.C. Detention Facility, until a recently successful campaign alleviated their conditions.

The Bureau of Prisons has gone to great lengths to rationalize its abusive "special handling" of leftist prisoners. Gilda Zwerman, associate professor at the State University of New York, cites "experts" who claim that conventional punishment for political prisoners is useless, and may even reinforce their self-concepts as "threats to the state." Since these prisoners do not respond to "normal treatment," officials reason, they must be incapacitated, their individual and political identities erased. By these neoconservative standards, notes Zwerman, in an article in *Social Justice*, women political prisoners are believed to be more dangerous than the men.

It is no accident, then, that the Bureau of Prisons has seen fit to build two high-security detention centers specifically for women. The Lexington High Security Unit (HSU) is by now infamous. There, political prisoners Susan Rosenberg and Silvia Baraldini and prisoner of war Alejandrina Torres were intentionally placed in a state of almost infantile subservience.

As part of an experiment to observe long-term effects of sensory deprivation, fluorescent lights at the HSU were left on 24-hours a day, windows were covered, and cameras continuously surveyed the stagnant, air-conditioned cells. The women's actions and spoken words were written down by male guards, who also observed them taking showers and sitting on the toilet. Although designated "violence-prone" by prison officials, and strip

searched each time they re-entered the Unit, not one of these women was convicted of assaulting or injuring another person. The cost to taxpayers of keeping each of them in this concentrated misery was \$55,000 a year.

Although the HSU was closed by judicial decree in July 1988, after an international protest that included the efforts of Amnesty International, its purpose will likely be carried on elsewhere. The Shawnee Unit at the Federal Correctional Institution in Marianna, Florida, has been opened recently for medium- to high-security women prisoners. So far, it has given every indication that it intends to duplicate, if not intensify, conditions at Lexington. If Buck, Rosenberg, and Whitehorn are convicted, speculates Mary O'Melveny, they will spend most of their sentences at Marianna, while Berkman and Blunk will be returned to Marion, which is under permanent lock down.

If these are the conditions under which political prisoners are sentenced to live for years of their lives, why is there not an outcry from feminist and progressive communities? One reason may be the fact that these six political prisoners, and others like them, support armed struggle as a people's right to resist oppression. This view is translated by the U.S. government to mean "terrorism." Says Marilyn Buck:

The issue is resistance against an illegal government, against a government that is engaged in violence on such a grand scale that we could talk about it for years and not even go through all it's doing. And then look at the fact that . . . anyone who fights back is called a "terrorist."

Coming of age during the liberation movements of the '60s, the women in the Resistance Conspiracy case remain inspired by the activism of the women of Southeast Asia and the Black Power uprisings in the United States. Susan Rosenberg remembers:

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

I saw the women of Vietnam rise up as part of their nation to say, "We're going to have our own destiny." I had never seen anything like that. And I wanted to be like that.

Yet there is something fundamentally shocking to the public about the image of a woman who picks up a gun to fight for her people. "I think the prospect of women fighting the system is particularly threatening," says Laura Whitehorn, "because they see what women have done for the struggles in all other countries. Until the majority of women are involved in a people's war or in a revolutionary movement, the movement doesn't have as much chance for success."

All six defendants criticize the United States's "antiterrorist" campaign, which, they say, holds the lopsided view that a few scattered revolutionaries are somehow more dangerous than a government possessing the world's largest nuclear arsenal. According to this stultifying mentality, they observe, homelessness, lack of money for AIDS research, the ruin of the ecosystem are not considered dangerous since they are not "violent." Anti-imperialist prisoners on the other hand, deserve their sentences, since, by affirming armed struggle as one means of resistance, they have asked to be seen as terrorists. "The problem," says Linda Evans,

... is that I think our movement—and I include the women's movement and the lesbian movement—has been so influenced by government limitations, by our relative privilege in the world... that they're willing to allow the government to write people like us off from the movement that we've struggled as a part of for our whole lives.

Looking beyond the Resistance Conspiracy trial to other political cases, however, violence ceases to be the

issue. Draft resisters, sanctuary workers, and Plowshares activists are now in U.S. prisons for nonviolent acts against the government. They have been given as long as 18 years behind bars, and their sentences are getting longer.

In the past eight years, the government has worked to insure that more and more people are seen as dangerous. Under the Reagan administration, there has been an escalation of grand jury investigations, in which progressives who refuse to testify are jailed, often for indeterminate lengths of time. The Congress has also passed series of repressive laws, such as the Bail Reform Act of 1984, used to hold Laura Whitehorn, and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Law, used to indict Marilyn Buck and Mutulu Shakur and sentence them, respectively, to 50 and 60 years in prison. According to Gilda Zwerman's article more than 150 activists in the Black liberation, Puerto Rican independence, and North American anti-imperialist movements were tried under these statutes and are now serving long sentences.

An astounding assault on civil liberty comes with the intensification of security initiatives by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), whose plans, in the event of a national "emergency," now include legal suspension of the Constitution; imposition of martial law on U.S. citizens; government censorship of the media; and—in a horrifying leap backwards—the establishment of detention camps for illegal "aliens," troublesome racial groups, and political dissidents. Again, the Oliver North case makes an ironic entrance: it was North and his colleagues who devised these plans.

Even more astounding is the fact that the public knows as little about these restrictive measures as it does about the growing number of political prisoners. (There are cases now being

prosecuted that merit as much attention as the Resistance Conspiracy trial. The trial of the Puerto Rican 16, for example, begun in September 1988, in Hartford, Connecticut, involves a large number of videotapes and wiretaps illegally obtained by the FBI to prosecute a group of Puerto Rican *independistas* on bank robbery charges. Another trial, begun in January 1989 in Springfield, Massachusetts, concerns three working-class people charged with politically motivated bombings.) The mainstream media, sensitive to government interests, chooses to keep virtually silent about political cases and the laws that will engender more prisoners. And political prisoners remain isolated, not only from human contact, but also from contact with the outside world.

Isolation, lethal because of its silence, may finally prove to be the most effective governmental weapon against individual will as well as political coalitions. In Part Three of *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Hannah Arendt writes:

It has frequently been observed that terror can rule absolutely only over [people] who are isolated from each other and that, therefore, one of the primary concerns of all tyrannical government is to bring this isolation about. Isolation may be the beginning of terror....

Meanwhile, the Resistance Conspiracy defendants await trial. If they were to recant their politics, name names, tell the government what, if anything, they know of other radical groups, would they be treated better, even in Laura Whitehorn's case, released? "Oh, I bet in a second," answers Whitehorn. "I mean, one of the things they hate about us is that they can't get any of us to turn even the littlest things."

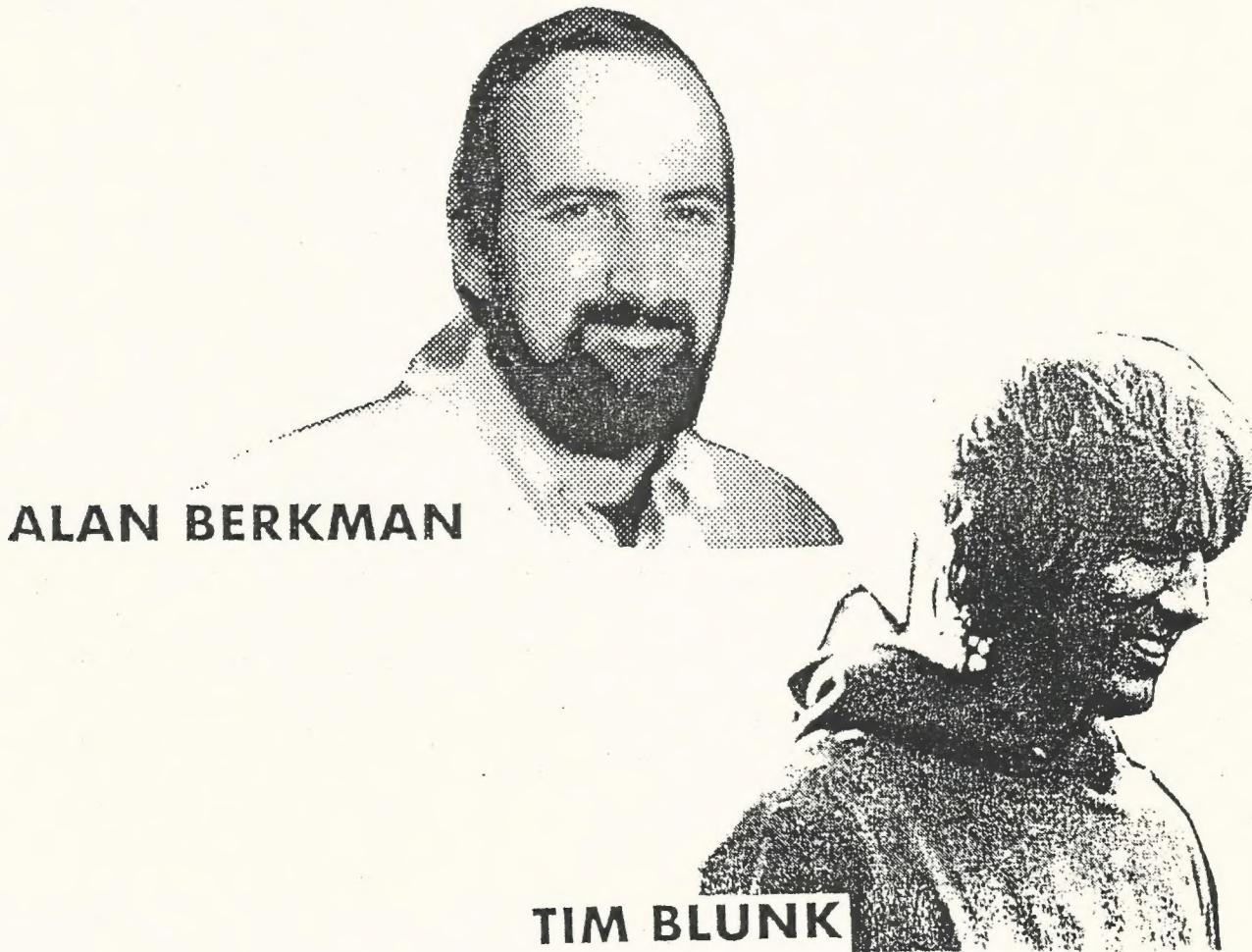
Women of political conscience would do well to find out what lies

behind such commitment. "Probably every single political prisoner in the United States has a history as an organizer in some movement or another, and would have a lot to offer to people," says Eve Rosahn. Susan Rosenberg was an acupuncturist in a Bronx hospital; Linda Evans was in a women's band and started a women's press collective in Texas; Marilyn Buck was among the first to introduce women's liberation into the SDS agenda; Laura Whitehorn helped start the Boston/Cambridge Women's School and was active in the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. "These are people," reflects Mary O'Melveny, "with enormous skills and compassion and desires to help people." We have much to learn from them. And they need to hear from us.

Author's note: Contact the Resistance Conspiracy defendants and other political prisoners at the following addresses: Marilyn Buck, #233-396; Linda Evans, #4233-411; Susan Rosenberg, #233-412; Laura Whitehorn, #220-858; Alan Berkman, #233-315; and Tim Blunk, #233-410, D.C. Detention Facility, 1901 D Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; Silvia Baraldini, #05125-054, MCC, 150 Park Row, New York, NY 10007; Alejandrina Torres, #92052-024, MCC, San Diego, CA 92101. For a complete list of names and addresses, or for more information, write: Committee to Fight Repression, P.O. Box 1435, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025.

*Readers in the Boston area shouldn't miss *Golpas de Reas*, a play about the political life and imprisonment of Alejandrina Torres, to be presented at the Strand Theatre in Dorchester, 4 p.m., Sunday, January 29. For more information, call (617) 825-1862.*

Susie Day is a freelance writer and political satirist, who lives in New York City.



ALAN BERKMAN

TIM BLUNK

Reflection on Being Buried Alive

by Susan Rosenberg

We stood at the electronically controlled metal gate under the eye of one of eleven surveillance cameras, surrounded by unidentified men in business suits. We were wearing newly issued beige short sleeve shirts, culottes, and plastic slippers. We were in handcuffs. An unidentified man had ordered us placed in restraints while walking from one end of the basement to the other. The lights were neon fluorescent burning and bright, and everything was snow white—walls, floors, ceilings. There was no sound except the humming of the lights, and nothing stirred in the air. Being there at that gate looking down the cell block made my ears ring, and breath quicken.

The cell block was 100 feet long with 9 cells on one side and seven on the other. They were all locked shut. Alejandrina Torres (Puerto Rican Prisoner of War) said "it's a white tomb, a white sepulcher." I nodded, and whispered "it's Stammheim." (Stammheim is a special isolation prison in West Germany). The official in charge said to the voice box on the wall "open R1 please, I have Torres and Rosenberg." A disembodied voice answered "please move a little to the left, I can't see you on my screen..." For nearly three months we were the only two prisoners there, then a third political prisoner, Silvia Baraldini, and a social prisoner, Debra Brown, were brought there.

After our first week Alejandrina and I were "teamed" by officials. We were informed that we were permanently designated to the HSU, expected to serve our entire sentences of 35 to 58 years there. We were told that we had no due process because the director of the Bureau of Prisons, acting as an agent for U.S. Attorney General Meese, had personally approved our placement, and only he could approve our removal. When we asked if there was any way for us to get out of the HSU we were informed that if we changed our associations and affiliations a change would be considered. The staff joke was you got a "one-way ticket" to the Lexington HSU.

All contact with everyone was monitored, surveyed, and analyzed. No contact was allowed with anyone other than attorneys and immediate family for the first 16 months. The phone calls and mail were utilized for ongoing political surveillance against our friends, and our movement. There were never set policy rules so procedures changed daily, making life completely unpredictable.

At first we were told that we could not receive any mail unless we submitted a list of 15 names to be investigated. Only those who passed the investigation would be allowed to communicate with us. We refused to submit such a list. After three months this "rule" was changed and we were allowed to receive and send mail but not allowed any political literature. All mail incoming and outgoing was logged, and read by the Special Intelligence Lieutenant assigned to

the HSU. Publications which were rejected as "promoting violence, and were a threat to the orderly running of the institution" included, *The Nation*, *Claridad*, *MERIP Reports*, *CovertAction*, and others.

At one point we were allowed to review rejected political literature. We would be brought into the front of the unit under the eye of the camera and one or two officers, seated at a card table and told "you have one hour." Once, the administration had both Alejandrina and I review the literature at the same time. The officer put two cartons of literature on the table and said, "girls, you can't exchange literature, remember we're watching you."

The unit was shown to every law enforcement official who came to the prison. This meant that we were on constant display. It got so bad that officers would bring their wives and children to tour the unit. A group of high school students came and so did Ed Meese. We made a sign that read "FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN U.S. PRISONS—STOP HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES," and would display it when we heard a tour coming.

One day a man toured the unit. As he came on the cell block he said, "So this is the dead wing." He had an Irish accent, and we asked where he was from. He said he knew all about the "boys" (the Provisional IRA). He said this must be the "terrorist isolation wing" which was similar to the "dead wings" throughout Irish and British prisons.

While law enforcement and "terrorism" specialists had full access to HSU tours, they were denied to groups such as the National Lawyers Guild, the Kentucky Chapter of the National Organization for Women, and the American Sociology Association.

Everyone who wrote us asked how we felt about what was happening and how we resisted it. It was never an easy question to answer, and it still isn't. Small-group isolation is a form of mental/psychological maltreatment, recognized by the tortured and torturer alike. The isolation, the sensory deprivation, the constant inactivity, and the forced dependency for basic life necessities on jailers who both hate you and fear you mean that existence is a constant confrontation where the four walls become the world.

We survived relatively intact only because we knew what the Justice Department was trying to do to us, and that knowledge enabled us to hold onto our political commitments and identities with strength. When we were enraged and tempted to live out the stereotypical behavior that they expected (i.e., to be violent) we had a collective of each other. This unity of the political prisoners and some of the social prisoners allowed us to laugh, to find humanity in each other, and to carry on. Despite the most extreme efforts of the Bureau of Prisons, they did not win. We never lost memory or reality of ourselves or our political opposition to U.S. imperialism.

gedichte von marilyn buck, nordamerikanische anti-imperialistische
politische gefangene

für die frauen die arbeiten

sie gehen unter im sog der staubwolken in den straßen new yorks
unzählige frauen zerrieben von dem was ist,
von dem was unser leben bestimmt.
junge, alte.

alte

frauen sitzen auf den treppen;
sie sind gekrümmmt von ihrem leben voll schufterei.
sie gebären die kinder in den mietskaseren.
sie stehen gekrümmmt am fließband.
sie putzen, waschen, kochen

für alte frauen,

die durch bloomingtondales* wandeln
geld ausgeben, shopping gehen, sie suchen nach ewiger jugend
und schönheit
sie sind verzweifelt über den verlust ihres wertes als ware frau
und darüber, daß sie älter werden.
sie kennen keine anderen werte.

*einkaufspalast

schon alte junge

frauen sitzen auf der treppe.
zu jung, schon babies in ihren armen.
sie singen laut von ihren träumen,
träume, die getreibt sind vom blues, von nagenden depressionen.
in den augen der jungen Frauen spiegeln sich ihre lebenshoffnungen:
tanzende träume von mode und miss amerika.
zuviel für so wenige.
währenddessen sitzen alte Frauen
und junge Frauen auf der treppe.
sie brauchen viel.
sie schufteten für die ausbeuter in savannah, san juan, seoul.
sie spinnen die luxuswünsche der
alten Frauen, jungen Frauen der reichen klasse,
die nichts brauchen
und alles haben wollen.

Poem

By Marilyn Buck

Northamerican Anti-Imperialist Political Prisoner
MCC/NY

TO WOMEN WHO WORK

In the winds of whirling dust
whipping New Yorker streets
Myriad women
tossed by the tangible
which determines our lives
Young old

Old
women sitting on stoops
stooped by lives of labor
bearing children in tenuous tenements
bent over assembly lines
cleaning washing cooking
for old women
who whirl through Bloomingtondales
spending shopping searching for
chalice of youth and beauty
obsessive desperation over depreciation
and obsolescence
oblivious to value

Old young
women sitting on stoops
too young babies in arms
singing strident sonatas of dreams
dreams burdened by blues burning blues
in eyes mirroring expectations
lived by young women
dancing dreams of vogue
miss amerika
too much for too few
while old women
and young women sit on stoops
needing
slaving in sweatshops in Savannah
San Juan Seoul
spinning out the desires of
old women young women of class
who need nothing
and want everything.

für laura whitehorn

Über dich schreiben ist wie über mein leben schreiben.
die kleinen dinge. das bekannte.
nicht alle von uns können gedichte schreiben,
worte mit bilder füllen,
geschichten erzählen.
trotzdem fallen mir so viele geschichten ein.

als wir uns trafen 'on the land' --d.c., im mai 1971
die erste umarmung 'in der öffentlichkeit' auf der
cambridge függängerbrücke . . .
als wir den sieg in vietnam feierten . . .
so viele jahre, so viele kämpfe, protestmärsche,
demos, flugblätter, treffen, veranstaltungen,
compañeras.
unsere liebe, wir dachten, es ginge keiner anderen so. wir
dachten, wir würden zusammen altwerden. wir dachten.

als wir uns wiedersahen warst du gefangen.
als ich dich hinter der trennscheibe besuchte, mußten wir
schreien, um jede kleinigkeit hören zu können.
alles um uns herum, fremd.

ich sah deine hände, deine augen,
deine identität als politische gefangene.
du hast mich aufgemuntert mit knast' stories.

unsere zeit der frauenliebe/freundschaft ließ uns
durch die ersten jahre schweben. rebonding.
du hast immer alles für den kampf gegeben.
nun deine freiheit.
und wir haben nicht mal gedacht, daß wir sie je wirklich gehabt haben.

freiheit. . . wenn ich dir doch etwas von meiner geben könnte.
ein kleines opfer, das es wert ist zu geben.
aber so funktioniert es nicht.
das ist so wirklich wie das ausharren während der ganzen nächte.
boston. in den häusern dcr schwarzen familien, wartend auf
angriffe der rassisten.

das ist real.
jetzt kommen wir uns näher, wir und die anderen genossinnen mit
allen völkern der welt. kämpfend. opfer bringend.
die freiheit verlieren. sie gewinnen.
wir werden zusammen alt. stärker.

von susie waysdorf



Drawing by Laura Whitehorn
(Done from memory)

For Laura Whitehorn

Writing about you is like writing about
my life.
The little things. Familiar.
Not all of us are poets
words into pictures
telling a story
I have lots of stories though.

When we met "on the land"--D.C., Mayday 1971
That first embrace "in public" on the
Cambridge footbridge...
Celebrating victory in Vietnam...
So many years, so many struggles, marches,
demos, leaflets, meetings, conferences.
Compañeras.
Our love. We thought like no other. We
thought to grow old together. We thought.

When we saw each other again
You were captured.
Visiting you behind plate glass, we shouted
to hear the little things.
Everything around us, unfamiliar.

I saw your hands, your eyes, your soul
Political Prisoner.
You cheered me up, telling jailhouse stori
Our years of womanlove/comradeship floated
through those first years. Rebonding.
You always gave all to the Struggle.
Now freedom.
And we never even thought we really had it
Freedom...if I could give you some of mine
A small sacrifice, worth giving.
But it doesn't work that way.
This is as real as staying up all those
nights. Boston. Black families' homes,
waiting for the racists to attack.
This is real.

Bringing us closer now, us and the other
comrades, to the rest of the peoples of
the world. Fighting. Sacrificing.
Losing freedom. Winning it.
We will grow old together. Stronger.

By Susie Waysdorf

STOP GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

REMOVE THE BULLETPROOF WALL AND THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

This spring, six political activists, Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn, go on trial for political conspiracy charges at the federal courthouse in Washington, D.C. The government has erected an unprecedented 3-inch thick bullet-proof wall to separate the six from their supporters and friends. Behind the wall are surveillance cameras installed to intimidate all spectators. The wall and the cameras must be taken down. The outgoing Reagan and incoming Bush administrations must not succeed in this vicious attack on our movement.

The six activists, known as the "Resistance Conspiracy Case Defendants," are political prisoners who are charged with being part of a conspiracy to bomb several government and military buildings, including the U.S. Capitol, following the 1983 invasion of Grenada. The government admits that it doesn't know who did the bombings, in which no one was injured or hurt, and instead seeks to convict the six because of their political affiliations and beliefs. They are being charged with sharing a "common purpose" in resisting U.S. foreign and domestic policies.

The government has always tried to label people struggling for change in this country — terrorists. It reserves polite judicial treatment and a hero's welcome for contra supporters and big time drug dealers like Oliver North. There won't be any walls or surveillance cameras in that courtroom.

Together we can remove the courtroom wall and the surveillance cameras and overturn the conspiracy indictment. The "Resistance Conspiracy Defendants" have a long history of support for national liberation struggles. They have been active in the anti-war, solidarity, anti-racist, women's and lesbian and gay movements in this country. Don't let the government succeed in separating us from our brothers and sisters in jail.

Join the campaign to fight government repression. The wall must come down. Fill out the coupon below and send it in today.



I/my organization endorses this campaign.
 I would like to help publicize the case.
 I would like a speaker about the case.
 Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Clip and mail to: Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners' Rights, P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038-8191

Übersetzung

STOP DIE STAATLICHE REPRESSION

WEG MIT DER PANZERGLASWAND UND DEN ÜBERWACHUNGSKAMERAS

Der Prozeß gegen sechs politische Aktivisten - Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg und Laura Whitehorn, die wegen politische Verschwörung angeklagt sind, beginnt im Frühjahr in Washington, D.C. im Bundesjustizgebäude. Die Regierung hat, bisher einmalig, eine 8-zentimeter dicke Panzerglaswand eingebaut, um die sechs Gefangene vom ihren Freunden und Unterstützern zu trennen. Hinter dem Panzerglas sind Überwachungskameras eingerichtet, um die Zuschauer einzuschüchtern. Die Wand und die Kameras müssen wegkommen. Die scheidende Reagen- und nachfolgende Bush-Regierung dürfen nicht mit diesem Angriff gegen unsere Bewegung durchkommen.

Die sechs Aktivisten, bekannt als die "Angeklagten wegen Verschwörung zum Widerstand" ("Resistance Conspiracy Case Defendants"), sind politische Gefangene, die angeklagt sind, weil sie angeblich Teil einer Verschwörung waren, Regierungs- und Militärgebäude zu sprengen, z.B. das U.S. Capitol nach der Invasion von Grenada in 1983.

Die Regierung gibt zu, daß sie nicht weiß, wer die Bombenanschläge, bei denen keine Personen vertetzt wurden, ausgeführt hat. Stattdessen versucht sie sechs Leute wegen ihrer politischen Verbindungen und Gesinnung zu verurteilen. Ihnen wird vorgeworfen, "gemeinsame Ziele" in ihrem Widerstand gegen die U.S. Außen- und Innenpolitik zu haben.

Die Regierung versucht immer Leute, die für Veränderungen in diesem Land kämpfen, als Terroristen abzustempeln. Höfliche Behandlungen im Gerichtssaal und das Feiern eines Helden gibt es für Unterstützer der Contra und großer Rauschgifthändler wie Oliver North. Da werden weder eine Panzerglaswand noch Kameras in seinem Gerichtssaal eingebaut.

Zusammen können wir die Panzerglaswand und die Kameras im Gerichtssaal abschaffen und eine Verurteilung verhindern. Die "Resistance Conspiracy Defendants" haben eine lange Geschichte der Unterstützung von nationalen Befreiungskämpfen. Sie sind Teil der Anti-Kriegs-, Solidaritäts-, Anti-Rassismus-, Frauen-, Lesben- und Schwulenbewegungen. Die Regierung soll nicht durchkommen in dem Versuch, uns von unseren Brüdern und Schwestern im Knast zu trennen.

Nehmt an der Kampagne gegen staatliche Repression teil. Die Panzerglaswand muss weg. Füll den Zettel aus und schicke ihn heute zurück.

Solidaritätserklärung mit der Hafenstraße

Revolutionäre Grüße an Euch alle. Wir wollen unsere tiefe Dankbarkeit für Eure kontinuierliche Solidarität und für dieses Treffen in der "befreiten Zone" der Hafenstraße ausdrücken. So wie es momentan aussieht, ist es erst das zweite Treffen in unserer Unterstützung - hier in den USA und anderswo. Das reflektiert zum einen die Situation in unserem Land und auch in Eurem, zum anderen insbesondere die Unterschiede in der Entwicklung der revolutionären antiimperialistischen und progressiven Kräfte. Aber es überrascht uns auch nicht, daß Ihr uns nun in dieser Weise unterstützt, weil wir in den letzten Jahren wiederholt von der herzlichen Solidarität unserer westdeutschen GenossInnen profitiert haben. Unsere kollektive Dankbarkeit für die westdt. antiimperialistischen Bewegungen und die Gefangenen der RAF und des Widerstandes reicht weit vor die Zeit unserer Verhaftungen zurück und ist seitdem unendlich gewachsen.

Die konkreteste Erfahrung dessen ist im Kampf gegen die Isolationshaft entstanden. Genauso wie die Faschisten in der US Gefängnisbehörde von ihren Kollegen in der FRD gelernt haben wie sie Kleingruppenisolation und sensorische Deprivation einsetzen können, so haben wir von den revolutionären Gefangenen gelernt, wie wir dagegen ankämpfen können. Die kürzliche Schließung des Hochsicherheitstrakts für Frauen im Lexington Gefängnis, in dem unsere Genossin Susan Rosenberg zusammen mit der puertoricanischen Kriegsgefangenen Alejandrina Torres und der politischen Gefangenen Silvia Beraldini festgehalten wurde, wurde vor allem durch die grundlegende Arbeit der dt. Gefangenen und ihrer AnwältInnen ermöglicht.

Die GenossInnen Anwälte versorgten uns mit juristischen und medizinischen Dokumentationen für die juristische Ebene des Kampfes. Die Gefangenen erzählten uns, wie man gegen die Auswirkungen der Isolation anstreiten und sich gegenseitig helfen kann. Die subjektiven Beziehungen, die zwischen uns und Euch entstanden sind - insbesondere zwischen den Gefangenen - sind für uns sehr wertvoll geworden. Die Gefangenen sind für uns eine Quelle der Anregung und Führung durch Erfahrung. Von den Gefangenen haben wir die potentielle Stärke des Widerstandes im Knast gelernt. Für uns ist es eine Herausforderung, in uns selbst die Kräfte zu finden, um die politischen Aufgaben der nächsten Zeit zu bewältigen.

Wir haben gesehen, daß die Rolle der Gefangenen sehr wichtig sein kann im Kampf für eine revolutionäre Politik, und auch wir müssen

unseren legitimen Platz in der antiimperialistischen Bewegung wahrnehmen. Die Lektionen aus Euren Erfahrungen der letzten 20 Jahre geben uns Durchhaltevermögen und Optimismus.

Über die Jahre hinweg haben wir die westdt. antiimperialistischen und autonomen Bewegungen mit großem Interesse beobachtet, weil wir das strategische Problem teilen, unsere internationalistischen Verpflichtungen der Solidarität mit den nationalen Befreiungsbewegungen der sog. Dritten Welt mit dem Aufbau einer starken revolutionären Praxis, die von den entfremdeten, ausgebeuteten und benachteiligten Sektoren unserer eigenen Unterdrückernationen aufgenommen wird, zusammenzubringen. Weder wir, noch sonst irgendjemand, könnte behaupten in den USA einer Lösung dieses Problems nähergekommen zu sein. Die Kontinuität der RAF, der RZs und das Wachstum der militänten antiimperialistischen und autonomen Bewegungen hat deswegen eine große Bedeutung für Revolutionäre, die in den imperialistischen Zentren kämpfen.

Es gibt hier ein wachsendes Bewußtsein über die Hafenstraße und ihre Schwestern in Westeuropa. Diese Experimente kämpfender Kollektivität oder des "Widerstandes aus den Randgruppen" beeinflussen mehr und mehr die Vorstellung derjenigen von uns, die versuchen zu verstehen, wie man/frau eine starke Kultur des Widerstandes aufbauen kann, von der aus wir uns als Revolutionäre weiterentwickeln können und die Zentren des Imperialismus angreifen können.

Ihr beweist einen erstaunlichen Grad an Kreativität und Bereitschaft, das zu verteidigen, was Ihr untereinander aufgebaut habt. Die breite Front der bewaffneten und Massenaktion, die während des Hungerstreiks der RAF Gefangenen 1984-85 und kürzlich während der anti-IWF Aktionen entstand, hat unsere Sicht von dem, was möglich ist, verändert. Die wirtschaftliche Krise des Imperialismus kann jetzt fast überall in den USA in den einfachsten Formen des menschlichen Leidens gesehen werden. Reagan hinterläßt ein Erbe von Halb- und Vollarbeitslosigkeit, Obdachlosigkeit in den Städten, eine Krise in der medizinischen Versorgung für die Armen, eine wachsende Flut von rassistischer Gewalt und eine Drogenplage, die Ausmaße eines Genozids für die schwarze/afrikanische Jugend der Nation annimmt. Es ist klar, daß wir unsere Strategien und Taktiken jetzt mehr denn je neu bewertet und ausgewertet müssen an der Ernsthaftigkeit und der militänten Standhaftigkeit, die jetzt den Kampf in der BRD charakterisiert.

Zu unserem Prozeß: Wir sind viele Jahre lang antiimperialistische AktivistInnen gewesen

und haben solidarisch mit den nationalen Befreiungsbewegungen in der 3. Welt sowie denjenigen, die den Kampf in den USA definieren, gekämpft; den Bewegungen der schwarzen/afrikanischen Nation, der mexikanischen, puertoricanischen und indianischen Nationen für Selbstbestimmung, Unabhängigkeit und Souveränität. Jede/r von uns war am Kampf gegen den Ku-Klux-Klan, gegen rassistische und Polizei-Gewalt beteiligt; wir haben die Bewegung für Frauenbefreiung unterstützt bzw. in ihr mitgearbeitet und haben an einem Ende der Unterdrückung von Schwulen und Lesben mitgearbeitet. An verschiedenen Punkten haben wir begonnen, eine illegale Widerstandsbewegung aufzubauen, und an dieser Front sind wir in dem Zeitraum vom November 1984 bis Mai 1985 verhaftet worden.

Zusammen haben wir sechs kollektiv 14 Verhandlungen hinter uns; neun davon waren Geschworenen-Prozesse. Wir sind alle zu Haftstrafen von 12 - 70 Jahren verurteilt worden und sitzen diese Haftstrafen ab. Die Ausnahme ist Laura, die seit zwei Jahren in Untersuchungshaft festgehalten wird. Seit unseren Festnahmen haben wir mit Isolation, psychologischer Folter und Krebs gekämpft; wir sind in den schlimmsten Hochsicherheitsgefängnissen der USA festgehalten worden. Die Regierung will mit dem bevorstehenden Prozeß sicherstellen, daß wir so hohe Haftstrafen erhalten werden, daß garantiert ist, daß wir die Knäste nie mehr lebendig verlassen werden, und daß aus dem Prozeß ein politischer Show-Prozeß in ihrem Kampf gegen den "Terrorismus" werden wird.

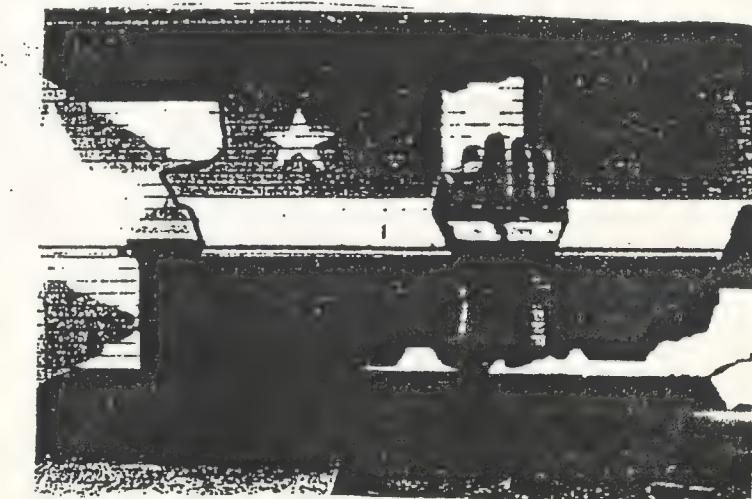
Wir sind der "kriminellen Verschwörung" angeklagt, und man wirft uns eine Serie von Bombenanschlägen vor, u.a. gegen das südafrikanische Konsulat in New York, die Israelischen Flugzeugwerke, verschiedene militärische Einrichtungen der USA und das Kapitolgebäude. Zu diesen Aktionen haben sich die Revolutionäre Kampfgruppe (Revolutionary Fighting Group), die Bewaffnete Widerstandseinheit (Armed Resistance Unit) und der Rote Guerilla Widerstand (Red Guerilla Resistance) bekannt. Sie bildeten eine bewaffnete Antwort auf die Vertrechen des US-Imperialismus; die Ermordung von tausenden von NicaraguenerInnen durch die US Contra Armee, die US-Unterstützung für Apartheid in Südafrika und Israel, die Invasion von Grenada, die Luftangriffe gegen Libyen und das wahllose Bombardement von zivilen Vierteln in Beirut durch US-Kriegsschiffe. Den Verantwortlichen für diese Praktiken sollte der Prozeß gemacht werden für Kriegsverbrechen und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit. Stattdessen wird versucht, unsere politischen Zusammenhänge zu kriminalisieren. Gleichzeitig hoffen sie, einen Präzedenzfall zu schaffen, indem sie jedes angebliche Mitglied einer "terroristischen" Organisation oder eines Netzwerks für alle Aktionen dieser Organisation anklagen, ohne dabei spezifische anti-Terrorismus Gesetze in diesem Land

einzu führen. Dies ist ein offensichtlicher Schritt in Richtung auf §179, den die USA einzu führen versucht, ohne die Fassade von Demokratie und sozialem Frieden zu beschädigen.

Wir haben es schon bei der Kleingruppenisolation gesehen - was die PRD durchführt wird in kürzester Zeit von den USA nachgeahmt. Deswegen nehmen wir die kürzliche 129a Anlage gegen Ute Brandt und die Angriffe auf andere Verteidiger der RAF und der Gefangenen aus dem Widerstand sehr ernst. Wir erklären uns solidarisch mit ihnen und der Forderung der politischen Gefangenen nach Zusammenlegung.

Durch diesen Prozeß und das, was in den Knästen folgt, stehen wir vor der Herausforderung unseren Kampf in neuen Zusammenhängen durchzuführen. Die Vision von einer echten humanen Alternative - frei von Rassismus, der Unterdrückung von Frauen, Lesben und Schwulen, von sozialistischer Kollektivität und Selbstbestimmung hält uns jetzt - wie schon immer - aufrecht. Von den Gefangenen der RAF wissen wir, daß der Knast nichts anderes als eine weitere Front ist. Und von Euch haben wir eine neue Bedeutung für den nicaraguensischen Ausdruck "Solidarität ist die Zärtlichkeit der Völker" erfahren.

Alan Berkman
Timothy Blunk
Marilyn Buck
Linda Evans
Susan Rosenberg
Laura Whitehorn



Washington D.C.
Solidaritätserklärung mit den Gefangenen aus der RAF und dem Anti-imperialistischen Widerstand

Liebe GenossInnen:

wir wollen Euch unsere revolutionäre Solidarität ausdrücken und bekräftigen unsere andauernde Unterstützung für Euch und die Forderungen des Hungerstreiks.

Wir wünschten nur, wir wären in der Lage, Euch konkretere Unterstützung zu geben.

Isolationsfolter ist eine einheitliche Strategie der NATO-Staaten gegen revolutionäre politische Gefangene, und die Gefangenen und unsere jeweiligen Bewegungen werden gemeinsam handeln müssen, um sie zu besiegen. Eure Avantgarderolle in diesem Kampf zeigt immer wieder den Willen zu siegen und eine Tiefe des revolutionären Charakters, die nur zum Sieg führen können.

VENCEREMOS!!!

Zusammenlegung der Gefangenen aus RAF und Widerstand!

Freilassung der Gefangenen, deren gesundheitliche Wiederherstellung nach Verletzung oder Isolationsfolter unter Gefängnisbedingungen unmöglich ist!

Freilassung von Günter Sonnenberg, Claudia Wannersdorfer, Bernd Rösner und Angelika Goder!

Freie medizinische Versorgung ohne staatliche Kontrolle für alle Gefangenen!

Uneingeschränkte politische Information und Kommunikation für Gefangene mit sozialen Gruppen draußen!

07.02.1989
Washington, D.C.

Statement of solidarity with the prisoners of the RAF and anti-imperialist resistance

dear comrades:

we want to extend to you our revolutionary solidarity and pledge our continuing support for you and the demands of the hungerstrike. We only wish that we were in a position to be of more concrete assistance.

Isolation torture is a unitary strategy of the NATO states against revolutionary political prisoners and it will require united action from the prisoners and our respective movements to defeat it.

Your vanguard role in this struggle continues to demonstrate a will to win and depth of revolutionary character that can only result in victory.
VENCEREMOS!!!!

Association /consolidation of the prisoners of the RAF and resistance!

Release the prisoners whose recovery of health from injury or isolation torture is impossible under prison conditions!

Release Günter Sonnenberg, Claudia Wannersdorfer, Bernd Rösner and Angelika Goder!

Free medical care without state control for all prisoners!

Unrestricted political information and communication for prisoners with outside social groups!

Während der Hungerstreik der Südafrikanischen internierten eine berechtigte Internationale Aufmerksamkeit durch die wichtigsten Internationalen Medien erhalten hat, und breit unterstützt wird, werden Informationen über den RAF/Widerstand -Hungerstreik außerhalb der BRD überhaupt nicht zur Kenntnis genommen.

Diese Blockade trägt dazu bei, ein Internationales Klima zu schaffen, in dem es der BRD mit Unterstützung der NATO möglich ist, den Streik auf alle mögliche Weise zu brechen.

Wir erinnern uns an den Hungerstreik der IRA 1981. Der Staat wird die Gefangenen sterben lassen, solange er denkt, daß er damit durchkommt.

Wir rufen die POW's (Kriegsgefangenen) und die politischen Gefangenen in den USA auf, mit uns, an einem Tagesfasten/Protest am 15.3. zur Solidarität mit den Hungerstreikenden in Südafrika und der BRD teilzunehmen.

Mit ihnen fordern wir ein Ende der Anwendung von preventiver Internierung und der Isolationsfolter überall. Wissend, um die Symbolik dieses Fastens, hoffen wir trotzdem, daß die gemeinsame von Gefangenen zu Gefangene Solidaritätshilfen wird die Medienblockade zu durchbrechen.

Wir rufen alle Organisationen und Einzelpersonen auf, die Politischen Gefangenen/POW's in diesem Land und International zu unterstützen, besonders jene, die mit uns gegen die Trakte Marion, Lexington, gegen vorsorgliche Internierung kämpfen, konkrete Unterstützung für die Hungerstreikenden zu entwickeln.

-Organisiert Demonstrationen vor den SA und BRD-Botschaften -Organisiert massenbriefsendungen und mobilisiert eure eigenen Möglichkeiten

-nutzt alle euch möglichen Pressekontakte um die Streiks zu veröffentlichen

-Schickt am 15. März Telegramme oder Protestbriefe an die Botschaften zur Unterstützung der Forderungen der Hungerstreikenden

Dies ist ein Alarm. Unsere Aktionen können mit verhindern, das heldenhafte Menschen ihr Leben lassen.

Die "Resistance Conspiracy Case Defendants" ist zu erreichen:
Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners Rights
P.O. BOX 28191
Washington, D.C. 20038-8191
"VENCEREMOS"

Resistance Conspiracy Case Defendants Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk
Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Laura Whitehorn, Susan Rosenberg

While the South African detainees' hungerstrike has received much-supported, news of the RAF/resistance hungerstrike has been totally ignored outside the FRG. This blockade contributes to an international climate whereby the FRG with the assent of NATO is free to crush the strike by all available means. We remember the 1981 IRA hungerstrike. The state will let the prisoners die as long as they think they can get away with it.

We are calling on the POW's and political prisoners in the U.S. to join us in a one-day fast/protest on March 15, in solidarity with the hungerstrikers in South Africa and the FRG. With them, we demand an end to the use of preventive detention and isolation torture everywhere. While recognizing the symbolic nature of this fast, we hope that this unitary prisoner-to-prisoner solidarity will help in some way to break through the media blockade.

We call upon the organizations and individuals that support political prisoners/POW's in this country and internationally, particularly those who have fought with us against Marion, Lexington and preventive detention to extend concrete support to the hungerstrikers. Organize or consulates; organize mass mailings and mobilize your own constituencies; use all of your available press contacts to publicize the strikes; on March 15 send telegrams or letters of protest to the embassies in support of the hungerstrikers' demands.

This is an emergency. Our actions now can help prevent heroic people from having to die.

;VENCEREMOS!

Resistance Conspiracy Case Defendants

Alan Berkman
Tim Blunk

Marilyn Buck
Linda Evans

Laura Whitehorn
Susan Rosenberg

WRITE TO THE PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Edwin Cortes #92153-024
Alberto Rodriguez #92150-024
Ricardo Jimenez #88967-024
P.O. Box 1000
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Elizam Escobar #88969-024
FCI
Box 1500
El Reno, OK
Oscar Lopez #88765-024
USP Marion
Marion, IL 62959
Adolfo Matos #88968-024
P.O. Box 1000
Lompoc, CA 93438
Dylcia Pagan #88971-024
Lucy Rodriguez #88973-024
Haydee Torres #88462-024
Carmen Valentin #88974-024
FCI Pleasanton
5701 8th St.
Camp Parks
Dublin, CA 94568
Alicia Rodriguez #NO7157
PO Box C
Dwight, IL 60420
Luis Rosa #NO2743
Box 711
Menard, IL 60434
Alejandrina Torres #92052-024
MCC
San Diego, CA 92101
Carlos Alberto Torres #88976-024
FCI
902 Renfroe
Talladega, AL 35160

PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Julio Veras y Delgadillo #00799-069-E3
FCI P.O. Box 1000
Petersburg, VA 23803
Dora Garcia #94735-024
FCI Pleasanton
5701 8th St.
Camp Parks
Dublin, CA 94568
Jaime Delgado #94736-024
P.O. Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808
Filberto Ojeda Rios #03167-069
Nelson Ramirez
MCC
150 Park Row
NY, NY 10007

NEW AFRIKAN/BLACK PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

Kalima Aswad s/n Robert Duren #B24120
Duell Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 600
Tracy, CA 95376
Johnny Imani Harris #Z-372
Holman 37
Atmore, AL 36503

Jah s/n Teddy Heath #75-A-0139
Abdul Majid #82-A-0483
Attica Cor. Facility
P.O. Box 149
Attica, NY 14011-0149
Herman Bell #79-C-262
Basheer Hameed (s/n James York)
#82-A-6313
Box 700
Wallkill, NY 12585
Kazi Touré (s/n Chris King)
Cecilio Chui Ferguson
FCI, P.O. Box 1000
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Mark Cook #20025-148K
3901 Klein Boulevard
Lompoc, CA 93438
Haki Malik Abdullah
s/n Michael Green #C-56123
Ruchell Cinque Magee #A92051
Hugo Pinell #A88401
Folsom Prison
Represa, CA 95671
Robert Seth Hayes #74-A-2280
Jalil Muntaqin #77-A-4283
Greenhaven Prison
Drawer B
Stormville, NY 12582
Kojo Sababu-Bomani (s/n Grailing Brown)
#39384-066
Richard Thompson-El #20080-101
James Miller #00124-054
USP Marion
Marion, IL 62959
Geronimo Pratt #B-40319
Charles Scott #C-19320
San Quentin Prison
Tamal, CA 94976
Dhoruba Al-Mujahid Bin-Wahadi
#72-A-0639
Box A-G
Fallsburg, NY 12733
Sekou Odinga #05228-054
Sundiata Acoli #39794-066
USP Leavenworth
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Mutulu Shakur #83205-012
P.O. Box 1000
Lompoc, CA 93438
Richard Mafundi Lake #79972
100 Warrior Lane
Bessemer, AL 35023
Comrade Rikke Green #84244
Oklahoma State Penitentiary
P.O. Box 97
McAlester, OK 74501
Gary Tyler #84156
Louisiana State Pen.
Angola, LA 70712
Ed Poindexter
7525 4th Avenue
Lino Lake, MN 55014
Monda Langa
s/n David Rico
P.O. Box 2500
Lincoln, NE 68502

Sababu Na Uhuru s/n William Stoner
P.O. Box 326
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Robert Brown
MCC
150 Park Row
NY, NY 10007
Robert Taylor #88-A-8613
Downstate Correctional Facility
Box 7
Fishkill, NY 12524

Abdul Haqq #141-88-1173
a/k/a Craig Randall
H.D.M.
14-14 Hazen Street
East Elmhurst, NY 11470
Arthur Majid Barnes #88-A-7424
Attica Cor. Facility
P.O. Box 149
Attica, NY 14011-0149

Mohaman Geuka Koti #80-A-808
Albert Nuh Washington #77-A-1528
Auburn Cor. Facility
135 State Street
Auburn, NY 13024-9000

MOVE Prisoners

William Phillips Africa #4986
Edward Goodman Africa #4974
P.O. Box 200
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Debbie Sims Africa #6307
Consusuello Dotson Africa
Ramona Johnson Africa
Alberta Wicker Africa
Sue Savino Africa
Janine Phillips Africa
Merle Austin Africa
Janet Holloway Africa
P.O. Box 180
Muncy, PA 17756

Charles Sims Africa #M4972
Delbert Orr Africa #M4985
Carlos Perez Africa
Drawer K
Dallas, PA 18612
Mumia Abu Jamal #M8335
Michael Africa
Drawer R
Huntington, PA 16652

Virgin Islands Five

Hanif Shabazz Bey s/n B. Gereau
#96544-131
P.O. Box 1000
Marion, IL 62959

Malik El-Amin s/n Meral Smith
#96557-131
P.O. Box 1000
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Raphael Kwesi Joseph #96558-131
P.O. Box W
Lompoc, CA 93436

Abdul Aziz s/n Warren Ballentine
#96521-131
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS 66048

WRITE TO THE PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS:

NATIVE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

Rita Silk Nauni
Box 11492
Mable Basset Cor. Inst.
Oklahoma City, OK 73136
Leonard Peltier #89637-132
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Standing Deer (s/n Robert Wilson)
#83947
McAlister State Prison
P.O. Box 97
McAlester, OK 74502
Vernon Bellecourt
MCC
150 Park Row
NY, NY 10007

NORTH AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Alan Berkman #233-315
Tim Blunk # 233-410
Marilyn Buck #233-396
Linda Evans #233-411
Susan Rosenberg #233-412
Laura Whitehorn #220-858
D.C. Detention Facility
1901 D Street S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Kathy Boudin #84-A-171
Judy Clark #83-G-313
Bedford Hills Corr. Facility
247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
David Gilbert #83-A-6158
P.O. Box B
Dannemora, NY 12929
Richard Picariello #05812
Walpole State Prison
S. Walpole, MA 02071

Silvia Baraldini #05125-054
MCC
150 Park Row
NY, NY 10007

Larry Giddings #10917-086
USP Leavenworth
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Ed Mead #251397
P.O. Box 777
Monroe, WA 98272
Gilliam Kerley #01988-090
FPC Leavenworth, Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Bill Dunne #10916-086
Box 100
Marion, IL 62959

Ohio 7

Ray Levasseur #10376-016
Barbara Curzi-Laaman #18213-053
Carol Manning # 10375-016
Richard Williams #10377-016
Federal Detention Center
P.O. Box 178
Hartford, CT 06101-0178
Jaan Laaman #10372-016
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Thomas Manning #202873-4B
CN-861
Trenton, NJ 08625
Plowshares Prisoners
Jean Gump #03789-045
WFCI, Box A
Alderson, WV 24910
Helen Woodson
c/o The Greenhouse
622 Water Street
Ashland, WI 54806
Richard Miller #15249-077
FCI
P.O. Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Fr. Carl Kabat #03230-045
Joe Gump #04468

FCI
Box 1000
Sandstone, MN 55072

Larry Morlan #03788-045
FPC
P.O. Box 1000
Marion, IL 62959

Greg Boertje
Chester Cty. Jail
501 S. Wawausset
W. Chester, PA 19382

Katya Komisaruk
P.O. Box 19202
Spokane, WA 99219

Jim Albertini #79564-022
FPC
3600 Guard Rd.

Lompoc, CA 93436

George Ostensen
Oak Hill Corr. Inst.
Oregon, WI 53575

Vancouver 4

Ann Hansen
Prison for Women
Box 515
Kingston, Ont., Canada K7L 4W7
Doug Stewart
Kent Prison
P.O. Box 2000
Agassiz, BC, Canada V0M 1A0
Brent Taylor
Milhaven Maximum Institution
Box 280
Bath, Ont., Canada K0H 1G0

IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS

Joe Doherty #07792-054
MCC-9 South
150 Park Row
NY, NY 10007

Literature from the Committee to Fight Repression:

Sentencing Statements of Resistance Fighters Susan Rosenberg and Tim Blunk	\$.25
Build a Revolutionary Resistance Movement—	
Communiques from the North American Armed Clandestine Movement 1982-1985	2.50
Subscription to THE INSURGENT! 6 issues/year (free to prisoners)	6.00
Foreign subscription	12.00
Ohio 7 Sentencing Statements	2.00
Communique from Los Macheteros on DuPont Plaza Hotel Fire	1.00
Women Political Prisoners	1.00
Shut It Down! Packet on Lexington	1.00

Committee to Fight Repression, P.O. Box 1435, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025